

already harming communities across America. The report tells us that the scientific evidence is "unequivocal." The impacts are being felt in every region, and they are growing more urgent. They are going to get worse if we don't act.

A record drought is destroying crops in California, torrential rains have flooded Florida, and wildfires are getting more intense. Coastal areas are being inundated as sea levels rise. No sector of our economy—from oyster hatcheries on the west coast to maple syrup producers in New England—are untouched. Even allergy sufferers are affected, as the pollen season starts earlier and lasts longer.

The National Climate Assessment concludes that unless we act now to cut carbon pollution, these impacts will intensify. No State, no community, and no congressional district will be spared from climate change. We will all be affected.

And so we are at a crossroads. One path is to listen to the scientists. We can protect our environment by curbing carbon pollution from power plants and oil refineries. We can lead the world in developing the clean energy technologies of the future, like solar and wind energy. We can meet our moral obligation to preserve our fragile atmosphere for our children and grandchildren.

The other path is to deny the science and ignore the growing threat of climate change. We can watch our coastlines flood, our forests burn, and our crops wither. We can let the Chinese and other countries dominate the trillion-dollar market for the clean, renewable energy of the future.

It should be an easy choice, but the special interests that profit from fossil fuels are spending hundreds of millions of dollars to obscure the issues. The Koch brothers, the coal companies, and the oil industry have joined forces to stop any action to address climate change in Congress.

Consider this: earlier this year, virtually every Republican Member of the House voted to block EPA regulation of dangerous carbon pollution. They even voted to deny that climate change is occurring.

I am the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. This committee has jurisdiction over our Nation's energy policy. Over the last 3 years, Representative BOBBY RUSH, the ranking member of the Energy Subcommittee, and I have sent over 30 letters requesting that we hold hearings on climate science so we can make informed decisions. Not even one hearing on the science has been held.

Thankfully, President Obama is not waiting for Congress to act. The President is listening to the scientists. He recognizes the danger of uncontrolled climate change and is using his authority under existing law to cut carbon pollution.

The President is absolutely right to act. His climate action plan is reason-

able, it is affordable, and it will protect our atmosphere for our children and future generations. It accelerates a transition to a clean energy economy that will create millions of jobs.

The President has said he is willing to listen to other ideas, but Republicans have offered no alternatives. I have repeatedly asked the House Republicans, If you don't like the President's plan, what is your proposal? But I have never gotten an answer because they don't have one.

Saying "no" to every solution is not a plan. Doing nothing is not a plan. Denying the science is not a plan. No one can accept what the scientists are telling us and fail to support a plan of action. If Republicans aren't going to offer solutions, the President must continue to act. He deserves our support.

We still have time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change presented by the National Climate Assessment. But the window is closing fast. We must act now to stop carbon pollution and invest in the clean energy technologies of the future.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day. Please help us to use it well.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given. Help them to meet their responsibilities during these days, to attend to the immediate needs and concerns of the moment, all the while enlightened by the majesty of Your creation and Your eternal spirit.

The season of graduation for millions of American youth is upon us. May our appreciation as a Nation of the value of education among those who are our future be incentive enough to guarantee its importance in our public policy considerations.

May all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IT'S ABOUT TIME TO GET THE FACTS ON BENGHAZI

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been 19 months since terrorists stormed the American consulate in Benghazi. Four Americans were murdered. Today, their killers still roam free somewhere in Libya. Why have none of them been apprehended?

Meanwhile, back in the United States, more questions than answers remain for this administration.

Who is responsible for failing to rescue those victims? Who is responsible for the massive secrecy campaign of hiding what actually happened? Where was the administration during the time of the attack? Why did Ambassador Rice mislead the world on national television as to the facts?

A new email has surfaced from the White House entitled, "PREP CALL with Susan," where the administration created a goal "to underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy."

Why didn't the administration just tell America the truth about what happened?

I applaud Speaker BOEHNER for establishing a select committee on Benghazi to find out the truth. People in government that concealed and botched the Benghazi murders and the terrorists who killed Americans should be held accountable. Justice requires it—and justice is what we do.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING MYSTIC AQUARIUM

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to announce that this Thursday Mystic Aquarium of Mystic, Connecticut, will be awarded the 2014 Institute for Museum and Library Service's 2014 National Medal. This prestigious award is only given to 10 institutions each year, and it is the highest honor bestowed upon museums and libraries for exceptional service to their communities. The award will be presented by First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the medals program.

Mystic Aquarium is a crown jewel of eastern Connecticut. Founded in 1973, it has more than 4,000 animals and over 300 species, including New England's only beluga whale. It has played an important role for Connecticut residents and visitors alike, with numerous education, research, and cultural exchange programs for students from around the country.

Dr. Stephen Coan, CEO and president of Sea Research Foundation, the parent of Mystic Aquarium, will accept the award on behalf of the aquarium. It has pioneered ocean exploration, including extensive undersea research in the submersible, the Nautilus, skippered by Dr. Robert Ballard, best known for his discovery of the Titanic.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Mystic Aquarium and Dr. Coan as they receive the 2014 IMLS National Medal. I thank them for their monumental dedication and contribution to the Mystic community.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI MURDERS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people have lost faith in the administration.

When four of America's heroes were brutally murdered at the consulate in Benghazi, Libya, the President promised the families of the fallen that he would bring those responsible to justice and prevent a future attack.

Congress has held countless hearings to conduct oversight responsibilities for the last 19 months. Last week, a secret memo was discovered. Despite subpoenas, unanswered questions remain as to how the administration handled the attack.

We must continue to pursue every avenue to ensure all Americans remain safe from terrorist attacks at home and abroad. Because the administration continues to provide a misleading and duplicitous coverup, we owe it to those who have died for America to develop a select committee to continue

the investigation of the Benghazi murders.

I am very grateful House Speaker JOHN BOEHNER picked a proven prosecutor for the job. Congressman TREY GOWDY of South Carolina is most capable of forcing the administration to reveal the truth.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THE SUN, THE MOON, AND THE TRUTH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Buddha once said there are three things that cannot be hidden long: the Sun, the Moon, and the truth.

It has been 18 months since the attack in Benghazi, and this piece of proverbial wisdom has again proved prescient.

Evidence is mounting that the Obama administration manipulated the truth of what happened on September 11, 2012, when our Ambassador and three other Americans were killed in what early reports indicated was a planned attack on a U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi.

Sadly, repeated attempts by this House to ascertain the truth of what happened have been dismissed by the administration as "politicizing" the tragedy. The deep irony is that it was the White House's political maneuvering which led to the truth being buried in the first place.

The emails released last week shed more light on the White House's response to the attacks. More will be learned as the investigation continues.

Coverups, like clouds, are temporary. They can't hold back the light forever. Americans want answers, and they will get them.

HONORING NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, back in my home community of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Northampton Township Volunteer Fire Company is celebrating 100 years—a century of service—and the community that I represent proudly recognizes the spirit and unflinching courage of its dedicated and skilled volunteers who remain faithful and ready to protect their neighbors year after year.

The fire company continues to serve the Northampton Township community with a staunch group of trained firefighters who consistently demonstrate the highest order of public service, risking their lives as they do to save others. Each of the firefighters and company officers are an integral part of the history of the century-old

fire company, and each reflects the true spirit of first responders everywhere.

Throughout its history, the Northampton Township Volunteer Fire Company and its members have set an example of selfless volunteerism and dedication for others to follow. I congratulate them on this landmark anniversary.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 5, 2014 at 5:19 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 436.
Election of the Honorable Andrew B. Willison as Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to section 743(b)(3) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76), I am pleased to appoint the following individuals to the National Commission on Hunger:

Dr. Deborah Alice Frank, MD, Brookline, MA.

William Howard Shore, Boston, MA.
Thank you for your attention to these appointments.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 6, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 6, 2014 at 10:22 a.m.: